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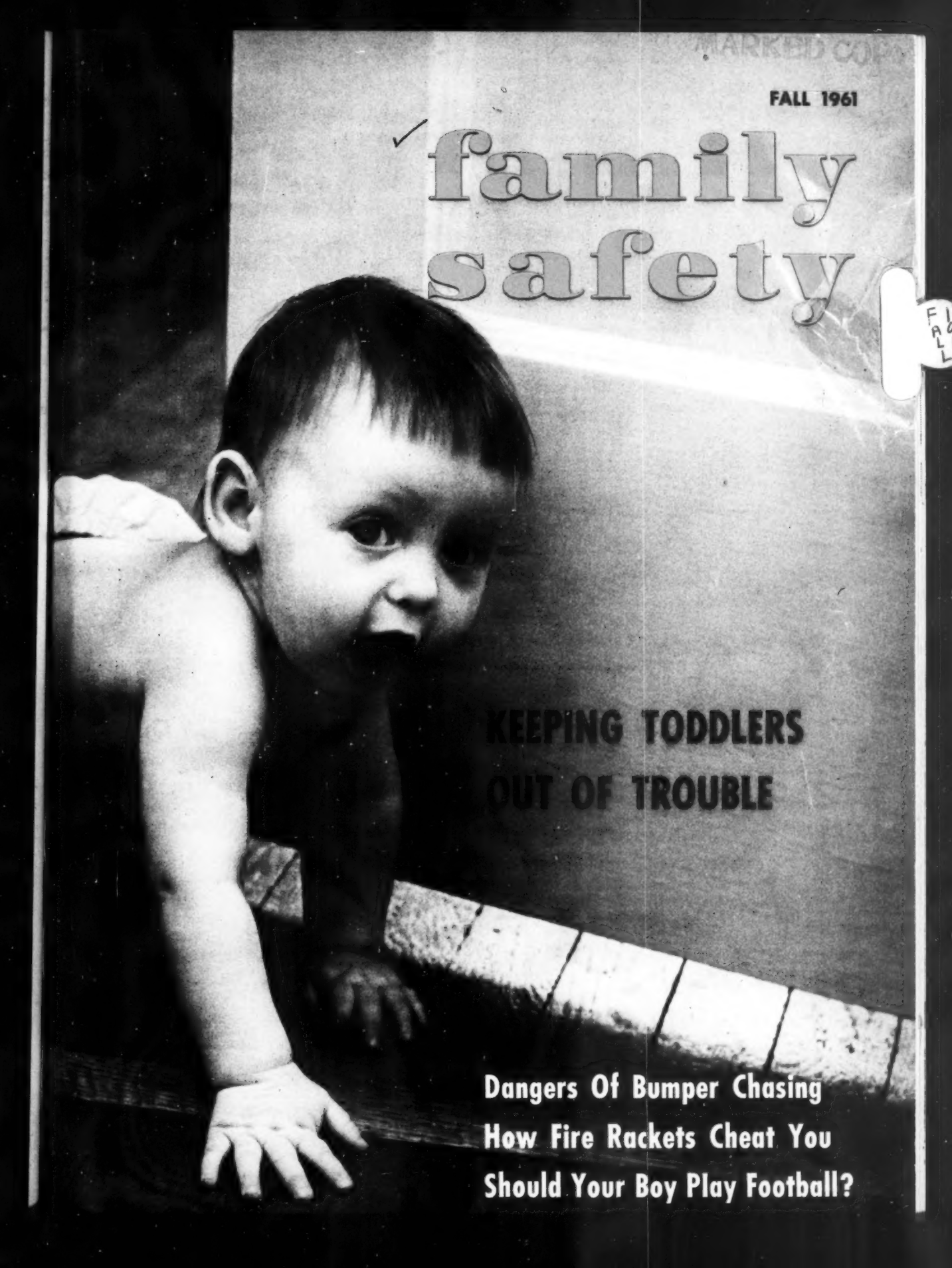
FALL 1961

family safety



KEEPING TODDLERS OUT OF TROUBLE

Dangers Of Bumper Chasing

How Fire Rackets Cheat You

Should Your Boy Play Football?

Look how we GREW

You'll find many changes in this issue of the magazine which we think you will like. First, the name is now FAMILY SAFETY instead of Home Safety Review. This means that the content of the magazine can be broader and more flexible. Many articles will still be on practical safety around the home, which is what we think you are most interested in. But we can also give you articles on any subject that affects your family's safety – not only at home, but in traffic, on vacations, at school. For example, for the first time we have been able to include an article on the important question, "Should Your Boy Play Football?" (page 12.)

Another innovation is color on the cover and inside pages. This gives our illustrations and page layouts more punch and helps you pick up the main point of the article much more quickly.

We've also changed the printing process from letterpress to speedier offset. The magazines will now be off the presses in a fraction of the previous time, so you will get your issue much sooner.

The reason for the revamping is simple: we outgrew our old format – thanks to you. A year ago we had only 15,000 subscribers. Now we have 90,000 and more orders come in every day.

Of course, we are ecstatic over the magazine's sudden popularity, especially since it enables us to give you an even better magazine. We hope you find it so, and will let us hear your reactions.

THE EDITORS

Vol. 20
No. 3

FALL 1961

Formerly HOME SAFETY REVIEW

family safety

Published by the NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

Editor
JEAN CARPER

Associate Editor
PETER HANEN

FAMILY SAFETY is published in support of safety programs directed by:

NSC Vice President for Homes
GEORGE M. WHEATLEY, M.D.

NSC Vice President for Traffic
REX M. WHITTON

NSC Chairman for Public Safety
WALTER F. CAREY

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
Chartered by the Congress of the United States

Home Office: 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

San Francisco Office: 703 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.

New York Offices:
Field Service & General Information, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N.Y.

Public Service Fund, 639-40 Chrysler Bldg., New York 17, N.Y.

FAMILY SAFETY is published quarterly by the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Ill. Copyright 1961 by the National Safety Council. Printed in U.S.A. Subscriptions (4 issues) each: 1—$2.00; 2—$1.40; 10—$1.10; 50—$.85; 500—$.70; 1000—$.67; 5,000—$.64. Add $.30 per subscription for foreign other than Canada and Pan American Union. Statements and opinions advanced in signed articles are personal expressions of the authors, not necessarily those of the National Safety Council.

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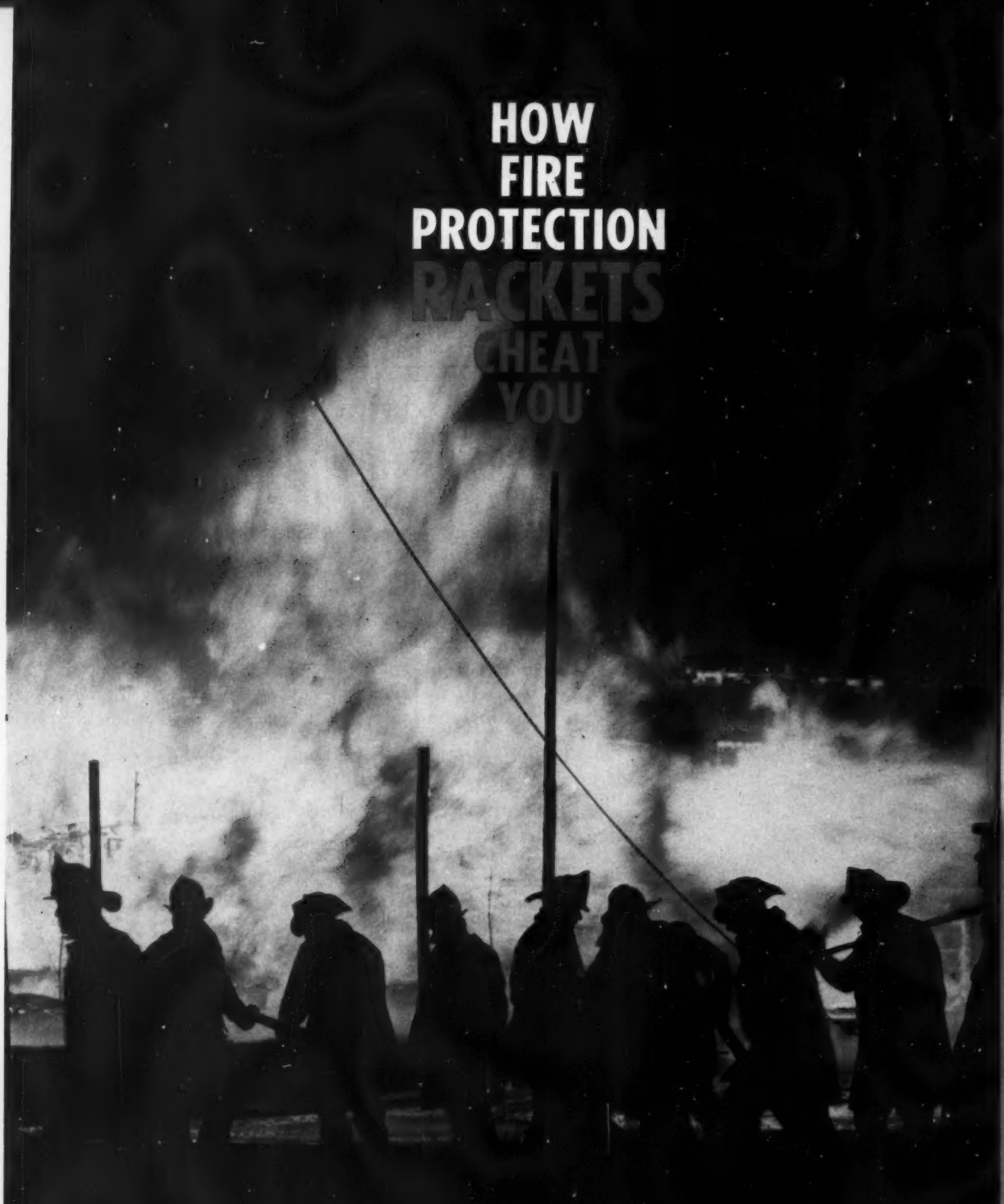
Cover photo, Gerber Products Company



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Unscrupulous salesmen are unloading shoddy fire equipment on us

by JEAN CARPER

RIGHT NOW a fast-talking gyp artist peddling junky fire equipment may be headed for your doorstep. His sales pitch is always the same: he tries to scare you, then quick-pressure you into buying his wares – a home fire alarm, extinguisher, lightning rods, new furnace or chimney. Often he poses as an official inspector for the fire department or as a representative of a national safety organization. He sometimes shows horror movies or photos of charred bodies lying in the debris of a burned-out house. If you don't bite readily, he opens a whole bag of persuasive tricks, some downright fraudulent. He keeps slashing the price of his merchandise and may even hint that by referring potential customers you can get the stuff free.

This fellow is well known to such organizations as the National Safety Council, National Fire Protection Association and Better Business Bureau. He is part of a lucrative safety swindle that is leaving a trail of sorry customers from coast to coast. His product is usually shoddy, outrageously overpriced – and dangerous. It can cause accidents or fail to function in an emergency.

Here are the most common schemes of the safety racketeer:

Home fire alarms

Fellows in this racket are the slickest operators of all. They move across the country in well-organized sales crews, usually as representatives of fast-buck companies. They hand out piles of safety literature and deliver carefully worded sales talks, full of implications but void of outright promises which could involve them in fraud.

Typical was their fleecing of a couple in a small city in Washington state. First the victims received a letter signed by a friend, asking them to view a "wonderful film" on fire protection. Several days later they got a phone call from a "safety representative" who made an appointment to show the film in their living room. It turned out to be a real shocker with scene after gory scene of fire disasters, designed to put the viewers in a terrified state.

It worked, and the shyster salesman soon had the frightened husband signing a contract for a complete system of fire detectors and warning devices which would sound loudly in case of fire. Total cost was never mentioned – "just a few dollars a week" – but the couple were under the impression it would not be more than $125. Besides, they were told they could send letters to prospective customers and earn a kickback of $10 for each one who bought a system.

Two days after a team of young men had installed the systems, the man of the house was stunned by notification from a finance company that he had signed a contract agreeing to pay $750, including 20 per cent finance charges. The salesman was long gone, and technically the contract was legal; so the couple was stuck with paying for 36 months on a system that was worth not more than $45. The "expert installers" had even put a detector over the fireplace, so every time the couple built a fire there, the alarm blasted off. But that didn't last long, for within a month the system's batteries went dead, and the alarm wouldn't have sounded in an inferno.

Fire extinguishers

Much cheaper, but also dangerous, is the Gyppo fire extinguisher, as fire chiefs call it. It comes in a variety of shapes and sizes and costs from 50 cents to ten bucks. It is sold to "put out those little fires that pop up around the house," but rarely does the job as well as plain water and in some instances does harm. One man in Massachusetts who tried to use a cheap extinguisher was killed when it exploded in his face.

Most common form of the "Gyppo" is the beer-can extinguisher which releases a pressurized stream of carbon tetrachloride or bicarbonate of soda. It can't even extinguish a small waste paper fire. Similar is the small plastic squeeze bottle that sends out a puff of "mystery powder," which is comon baking soda. In some cases these extinguishers have been found to actually aid the spread of fire.

Other absurd and dangerous fire extinguishers that are peddled to homeowners by fast-buck salesmen are:

- A glass ball full of carbon tetrachloride which you throw at a fire. Supposedly, the ball breaks and the released carbon tet puts out the fire. Besides the drawback that your aim has to be better than average, carbon tet gives off poisonous fumes and should never be kept around the house.

(Continued next page)

ent unsuspecting homeowners. Know their tactics and protect yourself.

• An air-pump type tin cylinder containing methyl bromide, a chemical so poisonous it is no longer allowed in even commercial fire extinguishers. For added sales appeal, this gadget has engraved on the bottom a religious medal, supposedly blessed by the Catholic church.

• A glass Christmas tree ornament filled with carbon tet; if the tree catches fire, the heat supposedly breaks the ornament, dousing the fire. The very idea is ridiculous, for a 12-foot tree goes up in seconds. These "extinguishers" have been outlawed in several states.

Chimneys

Chimney "repairmen" use the most brazen tactics of all. They spot a house, usually where a woman is home alone, quietly climb on the roof and begin pounding on the chimney. When the occupant, aroused by the noise, emerges, the "repairmen" inform her they "just happened to be in the neighborhood" and noticed that her chimney is about to topple. If she disputes them, they fast knock off a few bricks which, in fact, they have just jarred loose. They offer to repair the chimney immediately if she will only sign a paper authorizing them to do so. Frightened, she often does and several hours later they present her with an outrageous bill. A Chicago widow was recently charged $560 for one hour's work! Another elderly lady paid $115 cash to two men for replacing six bricks which they had knocked out minutes earlier.

Sometimes these racketeers spin a fantastic yarn. They tell homeowners their chimney is infested with "mortar mice" – a certain type rodent from Japan that eats the cement holding bricks together. As proof, the gypster carries a dead mouse in his pocket, and like a magician, pulls it from the chimney right before the customer's eyes.

Another trick the chimney repairman uses is to surreptitiously spray lighter fluid down the chimney or at the point where the stovepipe enters the chimney. He then proclaims loudly to have found a gas leak and lures the homeowner upstairs or down for a demonstration. Pretending to search for the leak, he strikes a match near the lighter fluid which, of course, puffs into a sweeping blaze. Panicked by prospect of explosion or asphyxiation, the victim usually orders him to repair the "gas leak" immediately.

Furnaces

The angle in this racket is usually not to repair the furnace but to sell a new one at exorbitant cost. A phony inspector gains admission to a house under the ruse of looking for furnace hazards. He recommends a few minor repairs and the homeowner usually agrees. If not, the "inspector" may force the issue by scare tactics. One fellow carried fire crackers which he set off inside the furnace to simulate small gas explosions.

The "inspector's" gang of "repairmen" quickly dismantle the furnace completely. A phony "engineer" then appears and forbids them to rebuild the furnace, declaring it would be a fire hazard. The customer's only recourse is to order a new furnace – through a company specified by the "inspector" and "engineer," of course.

Lightning Rods

The lightning rod swindler concentrates in rural and suburban areas where lightning actually is a threat. He flashes fake "engineering" credentials and usually promises that his lightning protection system will guarantee a 50 per cent reduction in fire insurance premiums.

A homeowner who falls for this sales talk ends up having his house decorated with worthless junk. An elderly farm woman in New York shelled out $461 for a metal rod jammed in the ground and connected to a cable that wound haphazardly over the roof touching none of the vital spots, such as TV antenna and electric wires, where lightning might hit. There were not even any lightning rods placed on chimneys. Another victim discovered that his "copper" cable to conduct lightning to the ground was merely gold-painted rope.

All these gyp-artists are shameless, vicious and clever, but you can protect yourself by following these rules:

• Deal only with companies which you know to be reputable or which have been recommended by friends.

• Never let yourself be frightened into hastily signing contracts for new equipment or repairs. Reliable firms do not work this way. On large expensive jobs, such as fire alarm or lightning rod installations, get estimates from two or three companies in your area.

• Don't do business with a door-to-door salesman who offers big profits for referring potential customers. This type selling has been condemned by the Federal Trade Commission and the Better Business Bureau.

• If a salesman finds a "gas leak," call your local gas company which will send out a representative to find the trouble – if there is any.

• If repairmen start working on your property without your knowledge, order them off. Get their license number and company name from their truck and report them to the police and Better Business Bureau.

• Buy only fire equipment that bears the approval seal of Underwriters' Laboratories (UL). Also insist that merchandise be installed according to UL specifications.

• If you do get taken, notify local law authorities, the BBB office and your local safety groups.●

odd accidents WITH A MORAL

ON a sunny day in upper New York state, two golfers were playing for the club championship. As one putted, he felt a slight tingling in his hands and turned to see his opponent laid out, his rubber soled shoes split, his socks burned. The culprit: lightning which apparently came from a storm several miles away and struck from clear skies. Resuscitation revived the victim.

Moral: At the first sight of dark clouds anywhere in the sky, seek shelter. Lightning often strikes before rain falls.

• • •

Several workers in a Chicago office recently panicked and began to cry and cough violently when a mysterious cloud of vapor enveloped them. It turned out to be tear gas ejected from a novelty fountain pen, apparently obtained through a national magazine. Two women suffered such burning irritation in eye tissues that they had to be hospitalized.

Moral: It's dangerous, as well as illegal in many areas to possess tear gas. Only certain law enforcement officers are allowed to use it.

• • •

A child in Tennessee thought she would rid the backyard swimming pool of algae and scum by pouring in a quart of chemical solution

A bolt out of the blue

which she took to be chlorine. Four days later and after several swimming sessions, health authorities determined the chemical to be chlordane, an insecticide. Tests showed that fish died after only two hours in the polluted water. Fortunately, no humans were seriously poisoned.

Moral: Insecticides should be locked up away from children and used only by adults.

• • •

After soothing a sore shoulder muscle with a heating pad, a Massachusetts woman retired, only to awaken soon to smell smoke. She found the source — a foam rubber pillow which had spontaneously ignited after coming in contact with the heating pad several hours before.

Moral: Heated foam rubber will retain heat and flare up long after heat source is gone. Don't let the material get hot.

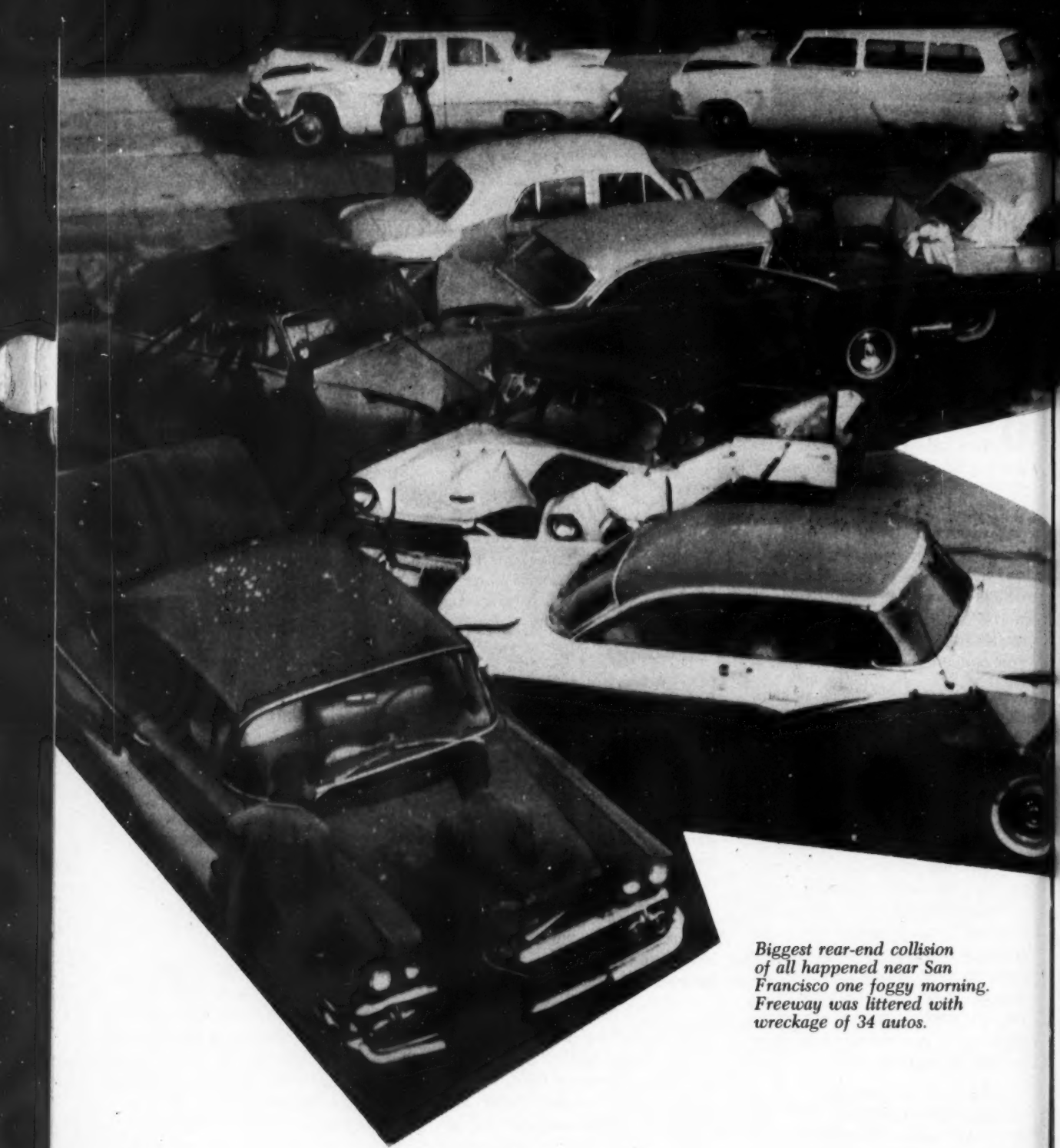
A grandmother in Walla Walla, Washington, returned to a parked car to find her 5-year-old grandson unconscious on the floor. The cause: he had turned the nozzle of a beer-can type fire extinguisher containing carbon tetrachloride and released several squirts of fumes. Being heavier than air, the fumes sank to the car floor where he was playing. His grandmother saved him by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Moral: Don't leave children alone in a car even for 10 minutes, as was the time in this case; and don't use carbon tet fire extinguishers.

• • •

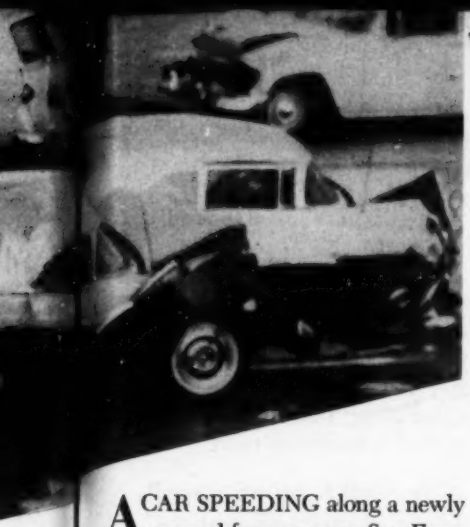
A Syracuse, New York, family of four became violently ill an hour after eating an outdoor barbecue of steak, boiled potatoes, salad. Investigation revealed the food was fresh, prepared sanitarily and obviously not contaminated with bacteria. Cause of illness was a mystery until victims, who recovered the next day, mentioned they had grilled the steaks on an old refrigerator shelf. Tests showed the shelf had been plated with cadmium which melted under the high temperature of burning charcoal and stuck to the steaks. The verdict: cadmium poisoning.

Moral: Since many metal household products, like refrigerator shelves, are coated with cadmium, don't use makeshift utensils of this kind that touch food.



Biggest rear-end collision of all happened near San Francisco one foggy morning. Freeway was littered with wreckage of 34 autos.

Dangers of B



High speed driving on crowded superhighways has created an alarming hazard—the rear-end collision that often triggers gigantic pile-ups.

f Bumper Chasing

A CAR SPEEDING along a newly opened freeway near San Francisco Bay early one morning dipped into a milky cloud of fog. Unable to see much beyond his hood, the driver slammed on the brakes, flicked on the lights and crept at snail's pace. A following motorist, coming up fast, saw the taillights, braked frantically and came to a dead stop – safely he thought. Seconds later he was smashed from behind. In quick succession, four other cars plowed into the backs of one another. A fifth motorist, seeing the wreck, swerved to the left, jumped the divider and was struck by two autos coming from the opposite direction.

A monumental chain reaction started on both sides of the superhighway. Eight more cars plowed into the original wreckage in the northbound lanes. On the southbound side, a curious motorist stopped to view the mayhem and precipitated another string of collisions. By the time patrolmen arrived, 34 cars were sprawled across all six lanes of the highway. Miraculously, no one was killed; 35 persons were injured.

This is a magnified version of the type of accident that is happening with alarming frequency, especially on turnpikes and expressways. It is the rear-end collision. A few years ago it was a minor problem, but now it is a major worry to safety authorities. Rear-end collisions account for ten per cent of all traffic accidents and are the number one cause of death and injuries on superhighways.

Some reasons for rear-end collisions are:

• **Driving too fast for conditions.** Too many motorists drive as if it's always fair weather. They don't cut their speed for fog that reduces visibility or for snow and ice that increase stopping distance by three to 12 times. They may also transfer superhighway high-speed driving techniques to two lane roads and come up so fast behind a slower car, they are unable to stop.

• **Driver inattention and distractions.** Cruising along at 65 or 70 mph on a clear stretch of multiple-lane road can produce a dangerous state of euphoria in a driver. He feels so relaxed and secure that he pays little attention to what he is doing. Some drivers have followed taillights of cars right off the road. Others have climbed over the bumpers of slow-moving cars in broad daylight!

Even a second's inattention on a turnpike can be disastrous. Last April, motorists slowed down on the New Jersey turnpike to stare at a two car collision near an exit. The result: 30 autos crunched end to end. Fifteen persons were injured, several seriously.

• **Cars stopped on roadside.** A car usually stops because of an emergency such as empty gas tank or flat tire. The motorist often does not pull far enough out of the traffic lane or at night does not set up warning signals. A driver zooming up from behind doesn't realize there is an obstacle in his path until it's too late to stop or swerve out of the way. One in ten accidents on the Illinois Turnpike in 1960 happened when one car rammed the rear of a stopped one.

• **Defective vehicles.** Many rear end collisions are traced to mechanical failures. The brakes take hold slowly or give out entirely. Taillights or brake lights don't work, failing to warn trailing motorists. Poorly operating defrosters, windshield wipers or headlights reduce visibility and consequently stopping time. At high speeds with dim headlights, a driver is actually traveling "blindfolded." The lightbeam doesn't project far enough to allow

the driver to spot an obstacle in time to make a safe halt.

• **Bad driving habits.** Many motorists are bashed from the rear simply because they don't alert the driver behind of their intentions to turn, slow down or stop. Or they barrel up to traffic lights, then as the light changes, stop suddenly, throwing following motorists into panic stops. Some motorists habitually stop too near railroad gates or tracks. One driver who halted close to a track was hit from behind by a truck and shoved into the side of a speeding train.

Another cause of rear-end collisions is the lane-hopper who squeezes into tiny spaces between cars, forcing motorists to brake to let him in. On high speed highways where autos travel in packs, even slight braking can trigger a series of rear-enders.

At the root of all rear-end collisions is one fault – following too closely. Unknown to most persons, there is a law that forbids bumper hugging and requires motorists to maintain a between-car distance that is "reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed . . . and the traffic upon and the conditions of the highway." Enforcement of this law is obviously difficult and a violation usually comes to light only after an accident.

There's no doubt that "followed too closely" is increasingly becoming a cause of collisions. It was a factor in 13 per cent of all traffic accidents in 1960 which is double what it was ten years ago. Sharpest increases have come during the last three years.

What's the reason? Primarily, the advent of superhighways which are generally safer, but which foster rear-end collisions. Motorists have a tendency to bunch on freeways, leaving little room for emergency stops. Unfortunately, many tailgaters underestimate the time and distance needed to stop. They still believe they can stop on a dime.

The truth is at 60 m.p.h. on good roads a motorist can stop only at the end of a string of 5,856 dimes, stretching the length of a football field. When the pavement is wet, he needs three-fourths again as many dimes to stop on. When the road is icy, he must cover about 30,000 dimes extending 1830 feet before stopping.

It takes a driver about three-fourths of a second after seeing an emergency to hit the brake pedal. This is called reaction time and may not seem very significant. But at a speed of 60 m.p.h., a car travels 66 feet in this split second. If an obstacle is only 55 feet away, the driver has no room to maneuver and is probably doomed to crash.

On the basis of reaction time, plus distance required to halt an average auto, authorities have scientifically worked out a formula for staying safe distances from other vehicles. It is: for every 10 m.p.h. speed, allow one car length between you and the car ahead. At 30 you should keep a distance of three car lengths and at 60, six car lengths. This rule is for normal conditions only. In bad weather, at night, in heavy traffic and on gravel roads increase the distance. There is no surer way to avert a rear-end collision than by maintaining proper distances.

Other tips for preventing rear-end collisions:

✓ Keep your mind and eyes on the road.

Every year turnpike officials report accidents caused by foolish maneuvers such as "reading map, reaching in back seat for cigarettes, searching for toll card." Perform these functions not on the road but at a rest station. If you get drowsy while driving, stop for sleep, if possible. Or try these eye-openers: a soft drink, open windows, driving with shoes off, singing, listening to the radio.

✓ Adjust your speed to road conditions.

Slow down during rain, snow, sleet and on gravel roads. Take hills and curves cautiously; there may be a slow moving vehicle ahead. Don't feel you have to accelerate to the speed limit; that limit was set for optimum conditions only!

✓ Be ready to defend yourself.

When driving on crowded urban freeways, keep an eye on all cars around you. Don't let yourself get hemmed in. Adjust your driving to allow a cushion of space around your car, so that in a crisis you have an "out."

✓ Let drivers know your plans.

Use mechanical turn signals and in heavy traffic, hand signals, especially for slowing down or making a quick stop. Relay actions of driver ahead to driver behind. You can also pump brakes, flicking tail lights, to warn of an approaching stop.

✓ Keep your car in good condition.

Have brakes checked often. Be sure tires have adequate tread which helps bring a car to a stop faster. In winter, snow tires or chains provide extra traction and aid in stopping. Check taillights to be sure they flash when you depress brake.

✓ Protect yourself in an emergency.

If trouble forces a stop along the highway, get as far on the shoulder as possible. To warn oncoming motorists, place red flares or stand with a flashlight or white handkerchief at least 300 feet behind the car. Have passengers leave the car and go to a spot far enough away to be safe should the car be struck. They may be uncomfortable, but it's better than being injured or killed in a rear-end crash.●

Readers ? Ask

Questions answered by PHILIP DYKSTRA
Manager, Home Safety Department

A neighbor of mine was severely burned recently when she threw water on a skillet of blazing grease. How should you put out this type of fire?

Undoubtedly, the boiling grease spattered on your neighbor, perhaps bringing some flames with it. This frequently happens when a person throws water on burning oil or grease. The proper way to extinguish such a fire is to smother it. Cover the blazing pan with a lid. Or heap on baking soda or salt. But never use baking powder or flour, for these may explode.

Will food spoil from being left for a short time in an opened tin can?

No, contrary to popular belief. There is nothing in a tin can that will taint the food or infect it with bacteria that cause spoilage. On the contrary, food left in a tin can is apt to be more sanitary than that in a bowl. For the can has been sterilized and the bowl has not. To keep food in a tin can, simply cover it and place in the refrigerator.

If a person gets acid in his eye, should you try to neutralize it by adding an alkali?

Never. Although the neutralizing process is effective in a chemistry lab, it doesn't work well on humans. It will increase the damage. If acid or alkali gets in the eyes, simply wash it out with cupful after cupful of water for 5 to 15 minutes. Hold the lids slightly open while washing and pour the water in the corner of the eye so it runs out the outer corner and doesn't get in the uncontaminated eye.

Why shouldn't you use carbon tetrachloride as a cleaner?

Fumes from this chemical are highly toxic and if inhaled can damage the liver and kidneys and perhaps cause death. It evaporates so rapidly that as little as a pint or quart used in a small, closed room, could be fatal to occupants. Nearly all industrial plants prohibit the use of carbon tet; but, ironically, unsuspecting housewives can pick it up at any hardware store. The hazard is so great that carbon tet should never be brought into a home.

A house we just bought has cellulose wallboards which we have heard burn rapidly in fires. What can we do?

The trouble with this type of untreated wallboard is that flames spread quickly across the surface or burn through the wallboard at fast speed. To slow down the spread of fire, you can coat the wallboard with a fire-retardant paint that bears the approval seal of Underwriters' Laboratories (UL). The paint comes in a variety of colors as well as in transparent finish for woodworks. When exposed to heat, the fire-retardant paint puffs, forming a protective coat between the wall and the fire.

How can you prevent throw rugs from slipping?

Apply one of the following to the rug back: non-slip spray that comes in an aerosol can; adhesive rubber pad that you press on; strips of foam rubber (some come in ribbon-like rolls with adhesive backings); a rubber mat you can glue on. These products are available at department stores and hardwares.

Is a television set powerful enough to give an electric shock?

Certainly. A black and white TV set may operate on as much as 20,000 volts. Persons electrocuted by TV's usually touch a defective set and a metal object, such as a radiator, simultaneously. Thus, the human body becomes a "carrier" of the current between the set and the metal. You can protect yourself by running a ground wire from the frame of the set to a water pipe, which will divert current harmlessly into the ground.

The interior of a television set can also retain an electric charge for several hours after the plug is pulled. So leave TV repairing to a qualified serviceman.

Should Your Boy Play FOOTBALL?

HUSKY Frank Shannon, Jr., a 15 year old sophomore scrub and son of a coach in Delaware, Ohio, was suddenly promoted to first-string halfback last September for an important game against a tough rival school. But he never played; the day before the big event, he was tackled in scrimmage by one of his own teammates. Dazed, he stumbled from the pile-up, complained of a severe head pain, and 15 minutes later collapsed, unconscious, on the sidelines. Surgeons quickly operated to relieve a large hemorrhage at the base of his brain, but Frank Shannon, Jr. died — and became a statistic, along with 16 others, in last year's football death count.

A football death always stuns not only local residents, but everyone who hears or reads of it as the news is piped nationwide. Already-anxious parents once again repeat the perennial question, "Is football too dangerous for my boy?"

In answer to that nagging question, let us look at the facts. Since 1931, 500 boys have died from playing football on sandlots, in high schools, colleges and pro ball. That is an average of 17 per year. More than half of these fatalities occurred in high school play. This means that out of approximately 720,000 high school boys ready to hit the gridiron this fall, probably one in 100,000 will die.

Tragic as football deaths are, they *are* rare. And safety experts agree that on a statistical basis, the

It's a rough sport with plenty of injuries Here are five questions you should ask before letting your boy go out for the team.

chances of your boy's dying in football are quite slim.

However, his risk of getting hurt is another matter. Football, as everyone knows, is thrilling because of its very physical violence of man ramming man with crushing force. Human bodies simply can't take continual beatings without being damaged to some extent. Understandably, the incidence of injuries in football is high. About 60,000 high school boys can expect to be hurt on the gridiron in the coming three-month season. That's one in every 12 who makes the team.

Many will only have their wind knocked out or incur easily-healed injuries such as ankle sprains. But about one-third of the injuries will be serious – broken bones, ruptured kidneys, torn knee tendons, brain concussions and hemorrhages. Some may leave the player with a limp, malformed bone structure or spinal damage that can cause trouble later in life.

"Yes, football has certain hazards, and injuries will never be completely eliminated," admits practical-minded Clifford B. Fagan, former coach and now head of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations. "But we can make football safer. We can reduce injury frequency and severity and prevent fatalities altogether."

Furthermore, Fagan contends that parents can take the initiative in preventing football accidents, by demanding that their school football program be conducted in the safest manner. Here are five important questions parents should have answers to before allowing their boy to play:

1. Does the team play under a good set of rules?

Rules that outline, for example, which plays are illegal and what equipment is required, differ among schools. Unfortunately, some high school teams are playing under rules meant for experienced college boys or under rules dreamed up by a group of coaches in a locale. These sometimes allow rough plays that can be injurious or cause malfunctions in the undeveloped soft bones of growing boys.

If in doubt, check with your state athletic association to find safe playing codes, especially designed for adolescent boys. One such code is that of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations. It is revised constantly to incorporate new safety features. For example, all boys injured even slightly must leave the field for at least one play. Players must also wear face masks and starting in 1962 must use mouth guards.

2. Are officials competent?

Even good rules for a game mean nothing unless competent officials interpret and enforce them. You can't just take a spectator from the stands, dress him in a striped shirt and expect him to referee a safe

game. And believe it or not, that is sometimes done. Be sure referees hired by your school are registered with the state board of athletics. This proves they have taken and passed courses in officiating, know all the latest safety regulations and will put a stop to plays that are dangerous.

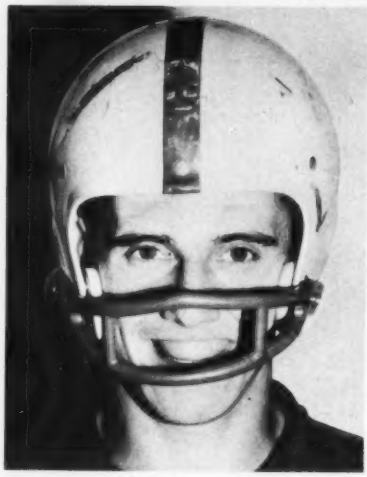
3. Does the boy have good equipment?

Proper outfits cost from $100 to $125 per player. Unfortunately, this is more than some schools, mainly small ones, can afford. So every five years or so they buy new or renovated uniforms for juniors and seniors, and by the time some boys get the suits they are pretty well worn. Padding, especially in helmets, is dangerously thin and rotted from many man-hours of rubbing and sweat.

Scrubs are usually worst off of all, for they get the hand-me-downs that are too large. Such ill-fitting equipment can be extremely hazardous. One boy lost his oversize helmet during scrimmage, was kicked in the head and killed. After a recent rash of football kidney injuries, investigators found the reason: back padding was too large, had slipped below the waist, leaving the kidneys exposed.

Nothing is so important to a player's safety as his helmet, for 70 per cent of all fatal accidents are caused by blows to the head. A helmet must have a hard shell, yet be resilient and absorbent inside to cushion the head. Best type helmet is now lined with a foam plastic, known by the trade name Ensolite, which is many times more shock-absorbent than foam rubber, formerly used.

Engineers at Cornell University recently designed a new safety helmet which uses Ensolite on both the inside and outside. The reason is that the hard plastic helmet, currently worn, is a powerful weapon when it is rammed in a player's stomach during a tackle. Even a 5-inch wide strip of plastic foam running back over the helmet like a Mohican haircut can soften blows from the tackled fellow's viewpoint. This type headgear has been worn by Cornell teams and proved vastly superior in preventing injuries. It is now on the market, and plans are underway to make it mandatory apparel for many high school teams.



No missing-tooth "football smile" for this player. He's wearing a protector that fits over teeth.

A "must" piece of equipment is the face mask, usually two curved bars attached to the helmet and stretching across the nose-mouth area. This guard not only helps prevent broken noses, cut lips and fractured teeth but, most important, distributes a blow over a greater portion of the head, lessening the hazard of a concussion. Face masks have also reduced the chances of getting teeth knocked out by 50 per cent.

Now comes along another innovation that promises to end forever that missing-tooth grin which sports writers have tagged the "football smile." Teeth never need be chipped, broken or kicked out if boys wear a new mouth-protector, a rubber or plastic molding that fits around the teeth. Teeth are being damaged at a rate of about 12 per season on college football teams not wearing mouth protectors, according to one study. But a test in Kansas City schools recently showed that of 540 players wearing mouth protectors, not one suffered tooth injury.

4. Is your boy physically fit?

Physicals for football players in some schools are a disgrace. They take only 45 seconds or so, and sometimes boys do not even undress. As one authority says, "Sometimes the only requirement is that the boy be warm." Consequently, some tragedies result. In one community, a team was called for practice without even going through the formality of physicals. The first day a player dropped dead from a heart ailment. In another pre-season workout a boy died of heat exhaustion, reportedly brought on by a blood disease. Several players who have suffered fatal kidney ruptures were later found to possess only one kidney, and shouldn't have been playing.

Your boy should have a thorough physical examination before the season, and periodic check-ups during the season especially if he suffers a minor injury.

If there's any doubt about his condition, insist on X rays, an electroencephalogram and cardiogram to show up abnormalities. And don't be like some parents who are so crazy to see their offspring on the gridiron that they conceal knowledge of past illnesses that might make him ineligible!

5. Is the coach safety-minded?

The attitude of the football coach, more than any other factor, determines whether players get hurt. A ten-year study showed that careless coaches as they move from school to school leave a tell-tale trail of gridiron injuries, whereas cautious

ones establish good safety records wherever they are.

You can judge a coach by the following questions: Does he give boys at least three weeks to get back in condition after a summer of soft living? Pre-season conditioning is increasingly considered important, for studies prove that it drastically reduces accidents during games. For the same reason, does he insist on 15 minutes of warm-up before a game?

Does he require a physician to be present at all games and ready for a moment's call onto the field? Does he allow the physician always to decide whether an injured player should go back in? All too often, in the heat of a game, a coach will overrule a doctor and rush an injured "star" back into the foray, although playing could compound the boy's injuries. A doctor must have the final say in a well run athletic program.

Does he see that the playing field is kept grassy and free of stones, glass and other dangerous obstacles? Does he make boys wear full equipment during scrimmages? They need full protection then as much as in games. In practice, does he avoid matching small second-team freshmen and sophomores with heavy juniors and seniors? Does he schedule games with schools of comparable size which have players of comparable size? If opponents have an unlimited supply of players, one as hefty as the next, the home team soon is crushed or exhausted, and probably laid out from one end of the field to the other.

Is the coach more interested in the team's welfare than in winning? Of course, there's nothing wrong with coming out ahead in a good scrap (in fact, winning teams incur fewer injuries than defeated ones), but not at the cost of a boy's life.

If you can get the right answers to all these questions, chances are your boy will be as safe in football as he is walking across the street. •

Readers Talk Back

Best yet!

Just finished reading the summer issue of Home Safety Review which was most interesting. In fact, it's the best issue I have seen, maybe because so many of the articles touched on pet subjects of mine.

ALICE TICE
Executive Secretary
Roanoke Valley Safety Council

I just thought you'd be interested to know that I think the layout and content of Home Safety Review is tremendous—particularly the last issue (summer). My congratulations.

RUSSELL I. BROWN, President
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
Washington, D.C.

I'm confused

You note in your toxicity chart on insecticides ("Poison the Bugs, Not Yourself," summer, 1961) that Rotenone, which we use on vegetables is extremely toxic. However on the Rotenone box (1 per cent) it states, "The safe insecticide for many vegetables, flowers and shrubs." The box even recommends its use on dogs. I'm rather confused.

MRS. F. R. LOOFHOUROW
Scotch Plains, N. J.

Rotenone is extremely toxic in comparison with other insecticides. However, in judging its danger you must consider the concentration, which in this case is only 1 per cent, very low. No insecticide is absolutely safe, *for all contain poisons in varying degrees. – Editor.*

New mower hazard

Your article "Power Mowers are Dangerous" (summer, 1961) will I hope warn people of the hazards of using rotary machines which are so cheap and popular now.

I have found one type which is especially dangerous – the one with the spring-wound engine starters, sometimes called "automatic starters."

In the event that the engine is stalled by the blade striking some large object, such as a large stone, the natural tendency of the operator is to rewind the starter and get going again. If the blade is really jammed by damage or clogged by a heavy accumulation of cut grass the starter will not turn the engine over until the blade is relieved in some way. If the operator lifts up the machine and uses hands or feet to loosen the blade, the spring starter will come into action, whirl the blade and most probably start the engine.

This happened to me, and by a miracle or a fraction of an inch I escaped losing a hand or fingers. Please warn others.

R. P. MESSENGER
Greenwich, Conn.

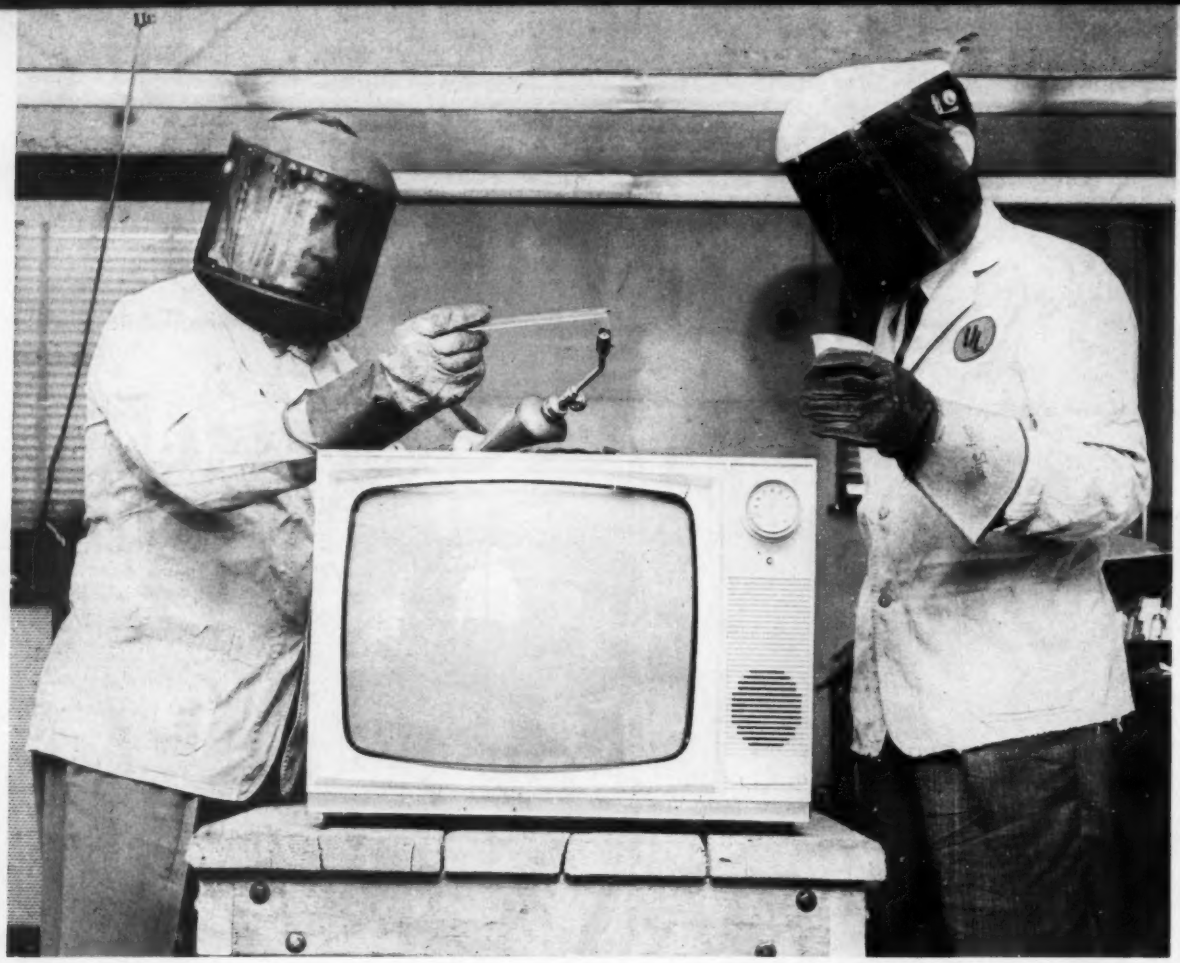
This letter has been sent to the Outdoor Power Equipment Association with the suggestion that they refer the problem to their safety committee and to power mower manufacturers. Editor.

HUNTING MADNESS

is a disease that overcomes many outdoorsmen this time of year. Our artist has drawn his conception of the chaos that might result if a group of "afflicted" hunters congregated in one spot. Believe it or not, the foolish acts shown here are the ones that really cause accidents every hunting season. All these accidents could be prevented if hunters followed ten rules:

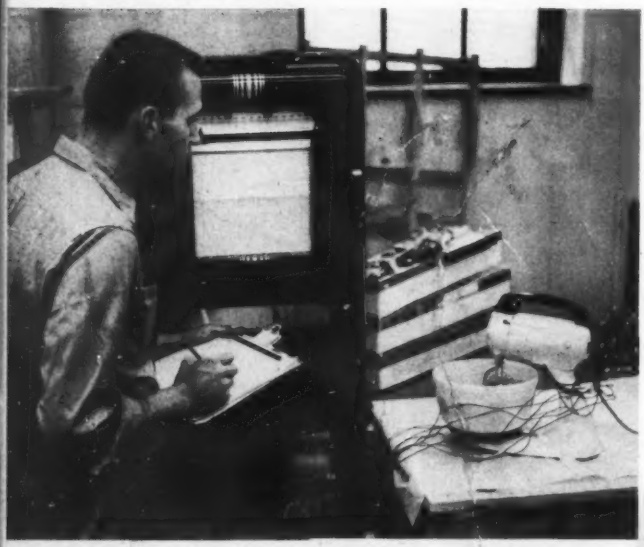
1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded.
2. Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to shoot.
3. Be sure of your target before you shoot.
4. Before firing be sure barrel and action are clear and unobstructed and that you are using proper size ammunition.
5. Keep the safety on until you are ready to shoot and carry the gun so it will not point at anyone should you stumble.
6. Unload your gun before climbing a fence or tree or traveling in an auto or boat.
7. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or at water.
8. Don't mix gunpowder and alcohol.
9. Before carrying a gun into camp, unload it and leave action open.
10. Be sure guns kept at home are empty and that ammunition and weapons are stored in separate places away from children.

Drinking alcohol
Human mistaken for game
Bullet ricochets
Hunter in car with loaded gun
Victim gets in the way
Gun blows up



Protected by masks, engineers get set to explode TV tube to see if set's front glass holds back flying fragments.

EL 25a4



UL man takes readings as mixer churns in bowl of sand. Motor must not overheat, send current to outer-shell.

EL 25a4

HOW

Engineers at Underwriters' Labs put appliances through rugged tests. Those that survive earn UL's safety seal.

by PETER HANEN

UL expert attaches wires, turns oven to top temperature to be sure it won't overheat, kindle surrounding walls.

Here's an air conditioner that failed. Plastic grille melted, stalling fan motor and creating shock hazard.

PROTECTS YOU

CHANCES are that most of the electrical appliances, building materials and wiring in your house bear the familiar UL label. That label is your assurance that the product has been safety-tested and approved by engineers at Underwriters' Laboratories, a nation-wide non-profit testing organization with headquarters in Chicago.

Manufacturers submit their products to UL and foot a yearly bill of nearly 10 million dollars for testing. Tests are rigid and only those products that stand up well – about 50 per cent of them don't – receive permission to bear the UL inspection seal.

But the story does not end there. In order to continue using the UL label a firm must submit its products for periodic inspection. UL inspectors – some 200 of them around the country – take samples of the product right off the production line. In addition the inspectors step into local retail outlets to gather random samples of the product for retest.

The tests themselves put the real meaning into the UL label. UL engineers subject the products to both normal wear and fantastic abuse. For example, the oven of a built-in range is turned up as high as it will go. The engineers then load the rotisserie with a most peculiar animal – a 10 pound iron pig that soon strains the rotisserie drive motor to the stalling point. When it stalls, the motor must not overheat or conduct electricity to the oven's outer shell where a housewife could contact it. The range itself must not create a temperature rise of more than 117 degrees Fahrenheit inside its test enclosure. Beyond this, house

EL25af

Excessive current is run through iron. It fails test if electricity gets to iron's outer shell.

walls would be in danger of catching fire.

Often a UL test must duplicate hazards nature brings to the home. UL engineers run a window fan continuously for four hours while spraying 12 inches of "rain" per hour over it. Shortly before turning off the rain they shoot a charge of "lightning" – over 1000 volts – between the fan's current carrying parts and its outer case. Then they put the fan back under normal load and if no significant charge reaches the outer case where a home owner could touch it, the fan passes this part of the test.

To stage a possible home predicament, the engineers place a table-model radio upon a small radiator. It might be your kitchen radiator with the radio playing your morning news program. Heat may cause the radio's plastic case to sag out of shape, jamming the control knobs. Were you to pull the knobs off and turn the bare metal control shafts by hand, you might receive a fatal shock since the same heat that deformed the case could produce a high resistance short in the internal wiring.

When the UL men put a kitchen mixer on trial, they set its blades churning in a bowl of sand. Though an unlikely recipe for the average dinner, the sand helps simulate years of wear in just minutes. While mixing up this sand souffle the motor must not overheat or conduct current to the mixer's outer shell. Say this should happen while you are working at the kitchen sink. If you were to touch the case of the mixer and the cold water faucet at the same time, the result would be a terrific jolt of electricity straight through you.

A kitchen mixer must also have a device that disengages the blades in the event that a fork or spoon falls into the mixing bowl. Underwriters' once tried the fork test in the days before they required such a device. The bowl exploded, sending slivers of glass slashing into the sides of the test enclosure.

Iron runs for weeks

The familiar subject of many a cartoon, an iron left on in the rush of a housewife's busy day, is of great concern to Underwriters'. One UL report cites the case of a happy family that returned from a trip to find their iron dangling into the basement. The iron had charred its way down through the ironing board, then through the hardwood floor and was still on, gently swinging at the end of its cord. An iron inspected by UL can char but must not ignite even the tissue paper used in UL's test. The iron runs for 500 hours or about three weeks. During this time the iron is dropped five times to make sure its thermostat will continue to function. If the thermostat failed, the overheating could reduce an aluminum sole plate to a mass of molten metal in just minutes.

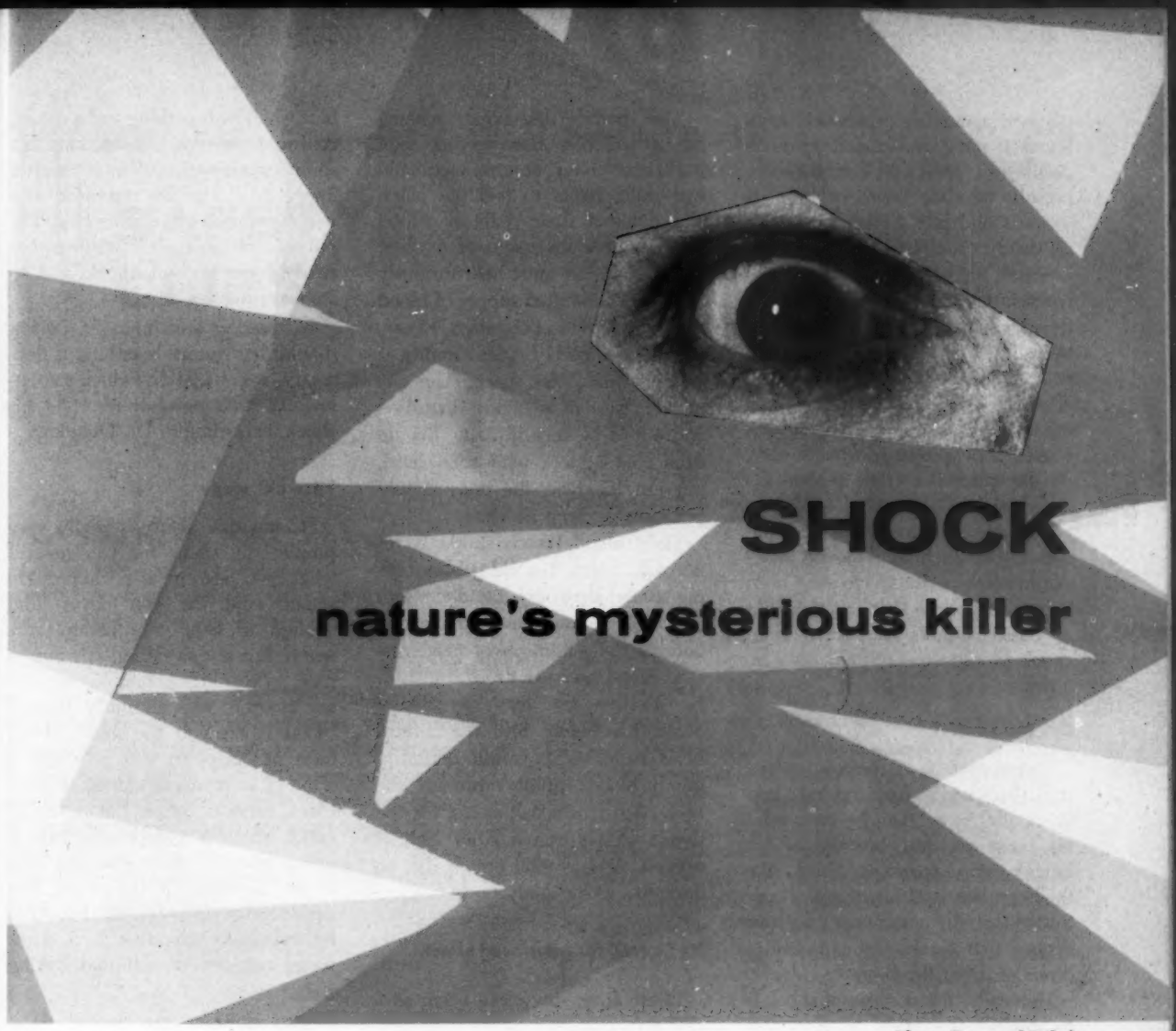
Where water and electricity come together – as they do on wash day in the basement of the average home – there is potential for both fire and fatal shock. Modern electric clothes dryers are particularly susceptible to these dangers. All the electrical components in a UL-passed dryer can stand flooding with water and will not produce a shock hazard. In addition UL engineers put dryers through both normal and abnormal performance tests for fire hazard. Here is how they do it:

Strange wash load

To simulate a big load of Monday wash – as big as the manufacturer's recommended limit–the UL men carefully count out a pile of bleached preshrunk and uniformly cut pieces of cotton cloth. They load the cloths into a dryer after wetting and spin drying them. Under normal operation the machine must dry the cloth and not burn it.

But suppose the drive belt turning a drum full of the family's clothes were to wear out and snap. The heating element inside the dryer would stay on quietly cooking the load of clothes. However, a machine bearing the UL label will never permit the temperature in the pile of clothes to reach the ignition point. If the dryer has an automatic reset device for preventing dangerously high temperatures, the device must keep working for two weeks, until, say, you come home from your vacation and find the machine is still going.

The next time you look at the appliances in your home you may recall what Underwriters' has done to safeguard them for you. These tests are the guarantee of quality behind the UL label, and that label is your guide for selection of hazard-free products from modern industry.●



SHOCK

nature's mysterious killer

Photo, Raymond Stibal

While pursuing a wounded deer in the backwoods of New York state, a young hunter tripped and rolled 100 feet into a gully. Unable to stand on a bloody, broken leg, he crawled painfully through the underbrush, then fell exhausted where companions found him an hour later. They gripped him under the arms and helped him hobble back to camp.

On the rough trail, he complained of severe pain in his leg and chest. "Just a few cracked ribs — nothing to worry about," diagnosed one companion. "We'll get you to a doctor in the morning." By night, the injured man seemed remarkably improved, much to the relief of everyone. His leg had entirely stopped bleeding, he no longer complained; in fact, he was indifferent toward his wound. But at daybreak when companions tried to awaken him for the trip to a nearby doctor, he was dead.

His friends were stunned, for they had not suspected his critical condition. Had they been alert, however, they would have realized that he desperately needed treatment. His pulse was rapid and weak, his breathing shallow. His skin was pasty and wet, his eyes glazed and his fingertips blue. His speech was slow and slightly incoherent. He was suffering the classic symptoms of that mysterious killer known as shock.

Shock is an insidious, widespread and grossly underrated cause of death. It often lies undetected behind a mask of more spectacular injuries, such as bleeding or severe burns. Its power is relatively unknown to the average man. Even doctors still can't fully explain or "cure" shock, although it has

plagued man since prehistoric days. Shock is rarely mentioned on death certificates, yet it kills outright more persons than do burns or gunshot wounds and has a hand in nearly all deaths from injuries.

Shock, in essence, is the body's reaction to a major physical or emotional insult. Shock cannot develop by itself like a disease, but must be triggered by a sudden happening. A person can suffer shock from any injury – a burn, severed artery, broken bone, puncture wound, blow on the head – or from a heart attack; serious infection, such as pneumonia; an operation, or emotional jolt, such as a loved one's death. Some persons have even been known to go into shock at the sight of blood. Others have died from shock brought on by *imaginary* injuries.

Beyond control

Unfortunately, a person cannot stop his body from going into shock any more than he can order his heart to stop beating or his lungs to stop expanding. Shock, like the heart beat and breathing, is controlled by the autonomic nervous system that works without willful direction from the brain.

Ironically, the purpose of shock is to defend the body against life-draining injuries. In most injuries, and especially in those where blood or other body fluids are escaping, the body senses its peril and acts quickly to keep itself functioning. It does this by constricting the network of tiny vessels that supply blood to outlying areas, including the skin. Hampered by smaller openings, the vessels cannot transport the usual volume of blood, and the skin becomes pale, indicating the first sign of shock.

Excess blood, drained from the extremities, then goes where it is most needed – to the body center. There, it cannot ooze out from the body and can feed vital organs, the heart, kidneys and liver that must be kept operating at all costs.

The body's lifesaving scheme seems sensible; however, it soon backfires. Outer tissues, especially the brain, begin to feel the pinch and demand their share of blood with its precious cargo of oxygen. Thus, the heart must beat furiously to speed the limited supply of blood through tiny vessel openings. Everything in the body begins running at an abnormally fast pace. The circulatory system is highly disturbed and out of balance. Finally, like an exhausted athlete who tried hard, but lost the race, the body simply collapses in deep shock.

Tight blood vessels suddenly relax and stretch like old rubber tubing. Blood that once raced through tiny holes, now flows sluggishly, only partially filling over-sized vessels. Blood pressure drops drastically. Tissues get less oxygenated blood than before. Still, the faithful heart increases its frantic efforts to pump blood rapidly through the body. But it is a lost cause, for the tissues slowly starve from lack of oxygen. And as vital organs die, so does the whole body.

No "cure" for advanced shock

Death from shock can occur several minutes, several hours or several days after injury. Once shock reaches advanced stages, it is difficult, often impossible to combat, although doctors can save some victims by blood transfusions or high-powered drugs that constrict the flabby blood vessels.

The heartening aspect of shock, however, is that it need not become advanced nor occur at all. Immediate first aid can halt its progress or prevent its onset.

"Any person with a substantial injury is apt to develop shock," says Dr. Donald A. Dukelow, of the American Medical Association. "Therefore, every injured person should be immediately treated for shock, although he shows none of the symptoms of pallor, rapid heart beat, shallow breathing and a dazed, confused attitude. Shock can become serious within 15 minutes after injury or it can be repressed and not show up for a day or two. The purpose of emergency treatment is twofold: to prevent shock and to stop its progress."

In treating any injury, a person should first restore breathing if necessary, stop bleeding (which also alleviates shock) and third, treat for shock, according to Dr. Dukelow.

First aid steps

"Combating shock is really very simple," he says, "for you reverse what you see in the victim. He seems cold, so you cover him enough to keep him comfortably warm, but not sweating. His face is pale, so you lift his feet (if this does not interfere with an injury) to send blood flowing to the head. He is faint or dizzy, so you give him a whiff of ammonia or a drink of stimulant, such as coffee, but never alcohol which is a depressant. He is losing body fluids so you give him crude 'transfusions' by letting him sip water or other liquids. Found to be especially effective is a weak water solution of salt and baking soda."

Also cautions the doctor, "You should always make an injured person lie down, for in this position the body is better able to stabilize circulation. And unless an injured person is in imminent danger, from a burning building or such, you should not move him; crude transportation aggravates shock. A firm hand grip or comforting words are also excellent therapy for shock, because a victim's fear or apprehension can speed production of hormones that affect blood circulation, further complicating shock."

These procedures may seem appallingly simple for fighting a powerful adversary like shock. But they are effective and have saved more than one person from the deadly grip of shock.●

Which Stick for Red Hots?

Cherry tree twigs or whips of the wild plum tree shouldn't be used as weiner sticks, warns the Racine County Safety Council. Both contain enough prussic acid to cause nausea.

Other poisonous plants to beware of in the woods are: rhododendron, elephant ears, dumb cane, milkweed, Jimson weed or thorn apple, water hemlock, peach tree leaves and buckeyes. The last cause a kind of paralysis if eaten. The American Indians used to pulverize buckeyes and sprinkle the powder on streams to paralyze fish, making them easy to pick out of the water.

Don't allow children to eat any strange fruit or plant and never chew on plant stems.

• • •

New Ways to Get Hurt

Here are some new hazards of the times noted by the National Safety Council.

• Kids who steer bikes with one hand and hold a transistor radio to an ear with the other. The radio's effect as a blinder, cutting off side vision is especially hazardous.

• Packaging soft drinks in cans traditionally reserved for beer. Children after the can is punched open can't resist poking their fingers in the holes. The turned-back tin top is sharp enough to draw blood.

• The flood of vending machines that dispense everything from shaving lotion to detergent. A couple of children, thinking they were getting pop, dropped in their dimes and got back a cupful of clear liquid bleach.

After the first swallow they dumped the distasteful stuff, but younger children might not be so critical. Why not place the coin slots of these machines higher so children can't reach them?

Sweet but Deadly

Never encourage children to take aspirin by telling them it is candy. That is the conclusion of Dr. Roger J. Meyer of Boston who in a recent study discovered that 93 of 94 children who were poisoned from eating aspirin had been told the pills were candy. Flavored, colored "baby" aspirin, sweetened to taste like candy, was responsible in 84 cases.

In 73 instances the child took the aspirin after it had been used by someone else in the family. This helps prove that children are poisoned after imitating adults who take pills, and that adults should never take pills while children are watching.

Many parents were not aware of the danger of aspirin and had not hidden it from children, said Dr. Meyer.

• • •

TV Ad Packs a Punch

Be wary that your child who watches a certain drain cleaner commercial on television doesn't try to reconstruct the scene in your kitchen. Several children have and with disastrous consequences. On screen the cleaner is shown gurgling and eating its way through a mass of dirt in a transparent pipe. So intriguing is this performance, that children rush to the kitchen sink, heap cleaner down the drain, replace the stopper and wait for the gurgles. What happens instead is a small explosion that blasts the burning cleaner into the child's face.

The commercial has reportedly inspired a dozen such accidents within the last year. The company recently, however, designed a cap for their container that children can't remove.

• • •

Treat Wounds with Water

If someone suffers a small cut at home, treat the wound with plain soap and water. This simple home remedy is far better than highly colored "antiseptic" drugs, says the Colorado State Medical Society.

Wash the wound gently with absorbent cotton and plenty of suds and warm water. Then apply a clean bandage to keep out infection. Proper cleansing rids the wound of germs more safely than some antiseptics do. Strong antiseptics may cause chemical burns, damage tissue and retard healing, says the medical group.

the TROUBLE with the TODDLER

THE toddler is a spunky little daredevil, afraid of nothing. He will swallow the most distasteful concoction with relish and climb incredible heights to get it. He will stick his finger in a whirling saw blade and a thousand degree flame. He will walk in front of a ten-ton truck or plunge into a hundred foot lake. And he will attempt these feats with the greatest nonchalance and persistence, much to the horror of his mother.

The age between one and two when a baby learns to explore on his own two legs is an extremely dangerous and critical one. About 3,000 toddlers are accidentally killed every year and ten times that many are seriously hurt. Nearly all suffer minor cuts and bruises.

The toddler is especially troublesome because having outgrown babyhood he can no longer be safely confined behind the bars of a playpen. But neither can he be trusted to wander freely and take care of himself. A mother certainly can't spend 12 hours a day watching and punishing his every mischievous act. What then is the solution? How can she keep him intact during that difficult in-between stage?

Two ways: Remove as many hazards as possible from his path and begin to teach him responsibility

Without a bit of discriminating taste, the toddler will eat anything, including soap flakes and furniture polish.

Ho 751p

A daring explorer, she jerks cord to find what's attached.

Ho 751ch

Always curious, she's delighted to find a bell to suck on.

Ho 751ch

by PHILIP DYKSTRA
Manager, Home Safety,
National Safety Council

for his own safety. The first is easy, the second difficult but necessary, for you cannot perpetually nag at or protect him, nor should you. As one pediatrician says, "He must learn to live with hazards and not without them. An over-protected child often becomes more susceptible to accidents at a later age."

It is pure folly though for a family not to take extra precautions to guard a toddler. He is not a responsible adult and cannot know the meaning of danger.

Here's how to keep him out of trouble:

• Falls are a special nemesis for the little fellow with unsteady legs and are often fatal. Place a gate at the bottom and top of stairways, including porch steps; be sure screens are tightly fastened so he can't push them out; tack down loose carpets and put away throw rugs.

• Toddlers, unaware of the power of fire, are more often burned than older children. Don't leave him alone in a room with an open gas fire or burning fireplace, and never let him stay alone in a house; fire strikes swiftly and can trap him. Keep matches and cigarette lighters hidden from his sight. Turn handles of pans on the stove toward the back so he can't grab them. Cover electrical outlets with safety caps that prevent him from inserting objects or fingers in sockets.

• Everything the toddler touches goes to his mouth. For this reason you must not let him play with small objects—buttons, pins, coins—that could lodge in his throat, windpipe or lungs. Don't give him toys with tiny detachable wheels or eyes that he can pull off and swallow. Letting him eat popcorn, nuts or candy with nuts is also hazardous. They could lodge in his windpipe or lungs.

• Nearly 3500 toddlers are poisoned every year from eating a variety of substances. Drugs, especially candy aspirin, are the number one culprit, so keep them locked up. Putting them in a high cupboard is not enough, for toddlers will climb on chairs, sinks, cabinets and boxes to reach medicines. Also never store household chemicals, insecticides or cosmetics where youngsters can reach them. Don't leave purses containing drugs or cosmetics alone with a child.

• Most toddlers who drown do it at home and not at a public pool or lake. Even a few inches of water in a sink or bucket can be dangerous. Don't leave a youngster alone in a bathtub, even to answer the phone, for he can drown in a minute. In summer, always keep an eye on him while he plays in a backyard wading pool. If you or neighbors

have an adult-size pool, be sure it is fenced to keep him out.

• Automobiles take the highest toll of toddlers. Therefore, provide some kind of barrier in the yard to prevent his wandering into the street. Always inspect a driveway before backing out an automobile. While riding in a car, the toddler should never be free to stand or crawl over seats. Strap him into a harness or child's seat.

These precautions are only sensible and should keep a child from major harm, but will not keep him accident-free. Nothing will do that. A child is going to fall, get burned, cut and bruised. And these minor injuries, although momentarily catastrophic, in the long run can be educational.

In fact, noted pediatrician Harry F. Dietrich of California advises parents to allow toddlers of 18 months to encounter a few hazards. "There are a few things children should find out for themselves," he believes.

For example, when a toddler reaches for a lighted cigarette, a mother should not shriek "Don't," but simply say, "That's hot." If the child disobeys, he will indeed discover that the cigarette is "hot" and that mother was telling the truth. He will perhaps have more respect for her admonitions in the future.

He has also learned the concept of "hot" and mother can point out other hazards, such as stoves and bonfires with the warning they are also "hot."

Dr. Dietrich also suggests that a parent discourage poisonings by teaching the child that not every substance is pleasant tasting. He says: "A parent might place a small glass of vinegar where a child can reach it, and after warning him that 'It doesn't taste good,' passively permit him to taste it. Similar experiences with a paste, such as hot English mustard and a powder such as alum or bicarbonate of soda, will effectively teach the youngster that not all liquids, pastes and powders taste as good as food. With such education the child will soon bring strange substances to the parent to inquire, in effect, "Does it taste good?' "

Discipline is another educational tool. Every time a child breaks a safety rule he should be punished, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. If he is not, he sees no bad consequences of his act and will repeat it. A spanking is especially persuasive, say pediatricians, but also emphasize that whatever the punishment, it must be the *same every time for the same crime.* (For more tips on discipline, see below.)

In no instance should you reward a child for his accidents, warns Dr. Dietrich. "If you greet his tears, bruises and bleeding with honeyed words or sweets, he will probably forget his lesson and may only remember that playing with fire begets cookies. Give him proper sympathy and love, but don't rob him of the educational value of his minor injuries."•

How To Make Kids Mind

• Use command words

Establish a set of command words and a special command tone of voice. Vocabulary should be simple and vivid – "No," "Stop," "Slowly," "Watch out," "Red light." The tone needs to be firm and calm, not harsh, cross or excitable. A child will learn to heed how you speak as well as what you say.

• Enforce your commands

Use your command words, your command voice only if you really must have obedience. If you fritter commands away on things like eating, dressing or toileting, some children will end up with the idea: "I don't have to mind unless I feel like it."

• Don't disagree

Parents must back up each other even if they don't see eye-to-eye. Differences can be settled later, out of the child's hearing. Let one parent contradict the other's ruling, and a child soon learns to question all decisions and play one parent against the other.

• Be consistent

Forbid scissors (or ashtray, shaving cream, powder or anything you name) and you must, in fairness to a child, forbid it tomorrow, next week and on into the next two or three years. Let yourself get teased, whined or annoyed into saying "OK – just this once" and you'd have been wiser to give permission in the first place.

• Tell the truth

If you tell a child an object, such as a pin, is "hot" simply because you don't want him to touch it, he may find out you are fibbing, and will continue to test you by touching all objects you label "hot."

DEADLIEST of POISONS

SHORTLY after his first birthday a well-contented child of a Chicago couple became whiny and irritable. Although concerned, his parents attributed the behavior change to normal teething, for the youngster chewed on everything — his bed, chairs, tables and window sills. Several months later, he grew worse. He refused to eat, was constipated, vomited periodically and became so lethargic that his mother frequently found him asleep on the floor.

Really alarmed by this time, his parents took him to a doctor, but too late. Within 22 hours he lapsed into a coma and died. An autospy showed that his rib bones, liver, kidneys and brain were infected with high concentrations of lead which had destroyed cells, causing death.

His grieving parents were bewildered about where he had obtained the lead. But doctors easily reconstructed the story after having the paint on the child's bed chemically analyzed. It contained 47 per cent lead and was ordinary house paint, the kind used on exteriors. Parents explained that in an economy drive they had bought the bed at an auction; previous owners had apparently covered it with lead paint.

Teething can be dangerous

Ho 751 p

Day after day for probably six months the child had nibbled off and swallowed paint chips with their lethal content of lead. The lead accumulated in his body, gradually bringing on the fatal poisoning.

Every year hundreds of cases of lead intoxication are reported and the circumstances are nearly always the same as above. The child is under four; he is a persistent nibbler on paint covered surfaces; his parents are unaware of the lead hazard; he dies quickly after symptoms are noted.

Lead poisoning, doctors agree, is one of the most hideous of childhood afflictions. The fatality rate is extremely high. One in three children who are poisoned by lead die. And survival is sometimes equally tragic, for lead destroys brain cells, which can never be regenerated, leaving the child with a lifelong nervous disorder or in a moronic state.

A child is poisoned usually from eating dried lead paint on window sills, peeling walls and repainted toys or furniture, although he can also be poisoned by inhaling the fumes of lead, for example, caused by burning old batteries as fuel.

Since there is no really effective "antidote" for lead poisoning, a parent must be absolutely sure that his child is not exposed to lead.

Here are preventive measures:

- Do you permit your child to chew on painted surfaces. Instead, give him safe articles to chew, such as hard crusts of bread, teething rings, toys designed for sucking.

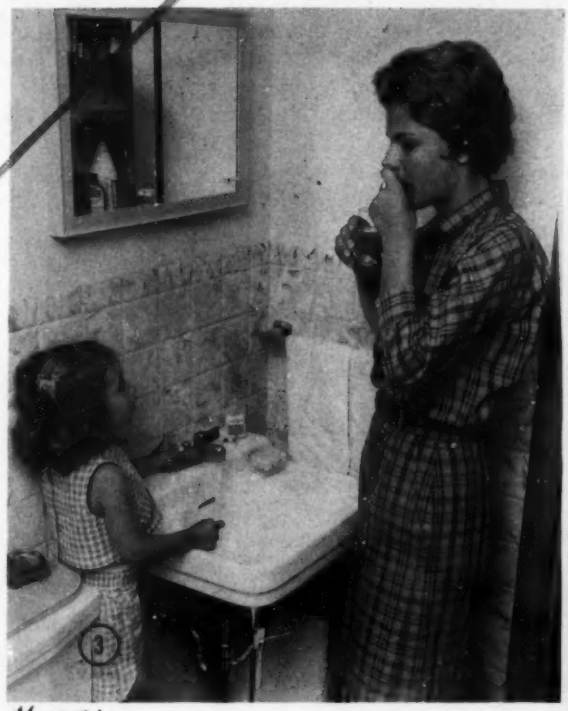
- If you cannot break your child of the habit of chewing on painted surfaces, take him to a physician who can test his urine for lead content and help you with your specific case. Never wait until you notice lead-poisoning symptoms which are: stomach pains, nausea and frequent vomiting, spasms, headaches, muscular weakness, constant lethargy, and irritability without known reason.

- Do not let your child eat paint flakes from peeling walls. Even tiny particles, that may have been formed by coat after coat of lead paint, can be dangerous. If your house was painted before your occupancy, remove all loose, cracked or flaking paint and plaster from the walls and ceiling. If possible, repaint with an interior paint that contains not more than 1 per cent lead. The label on the can will state the percentage of lead content; however, most interior paints are safe.

- Never use exterior house paint on indoor walls, woodwork or toys or furniture. These paints contain as high as 70 per cent lead.●

What's Wrong at Home?

Pleasant family scenes? Yes, but there are at least two hazards in each photo. Can you spot them?



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ANSWERS NEXT PAGE

La 39

What's Wrong at Home?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ PREVIOUS PAGE

1. Children are playing too near the driveway and the motorist backing out the drive is not looking to see whether there are children in his path. Also, the boy on the bicycle is riding on the wrong side of the street. This is dangerous as well as unlawful. He should ride on the right the same as automobiles.

2. The saw has no guard, so the operator could easily run his hand into the blade. The woman in the background is touching the washing machine and water pipes at the same time. Should the machine develop a short (assuming it is not grounded) her body would become part of an electrical current extending from machine to the metal pipes. In other words she would be grounded and most likely electrocuted.

3. Medicines in the cabinet are easily accessible to the child. They should be kept locked up. Also, mother is taking aspirin while the child watches — a dangerous practice. Children are great imitators and many who eat drugs do so after watching adults take pills.

4. The man-of-the-house is digging out toast with a fork which could pick up electricity and give him a shock. The coffee maker is too near the baby. He could grab the cord and pull scalding coffee on himself.

5. A baby should not sleep on a pillow; it could suffocate him. It's also unwise to let a baby feed from a propped up bottle, for he could strangle. And the pillows are certainly not an adequate barrier to keep him from rolling off the couch.

6. The baby is sitting too near the dish rack and is about to grab sharp knives. Detergent and other chemicals are visible under the sink which is not a proper place to store them when you have young children. All poisonous household chemicals should be kept out of a child's reach.

7. The man is smoking while filling the mower with gasoline. Sparks plus combustible gas fumes could cause an explosion. The shelves above his head are lined with insecticide containers which the youngster could reach by climbing. Insecticides should be treated like any other poison and locked up away from children.

8. The man is wearing open Japanese-type thongs, giving his feet no protection should they be hit by the whirling blades. A power mower operator should wear at least full-cover leather shoes and steel-tipped safety shoes if possible. Neither the woman nor the little girl should be in the mowing area. Obviously, the child is too close to the mower and could get her foot caught in the blade. The woman sitting on the step could be struck by a stone or other missile hurled by the mower blades.

WHY NOT!

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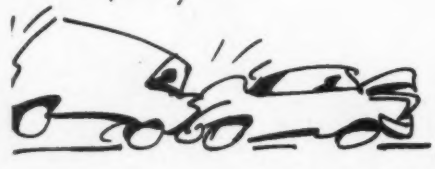


HERE'S a thought that came to me after seeing accidents in which a car plows into the rear of another one stopped along the highway to repair a flat tire. Why not paint the inside of the trunk lid with a white or yellow luminous type paint? Then in an emergency stop, especially at night, the motorist could raise his trunk which would glow, alerting motorists from the rear.

William Kuell
Union, N.J.

Do you have a safety suggestion like the one printed here? Send it to us. FAMILY SAFETY *will pay $5.00 for every one published.*

by TOM DODDS

What's funny about accidents?

The odds were all in his favor as a Farmington, N.M., man drove toward a railroad crossing. Only one train per week traveled over the narrow gauge Denver and Rio Grande Western railroad line. But the unexpected happened. His car smashed into it and was badly damaged. The man, luckily, was not injured.

ISN'T IT STRANGE? . . . Sometimes a man who is too scared to visit his dentist will strike a match to try and locate a gas leak.

A woman says: "I always drive with the emergency brake on. When an emergency happens, I'm ready!"

SIGNS WORTH NOTING . . . In Kansas City, Mo., a sign over the pay window of the Traffic Violations Bureau reads: "Don't complain. Think of all the times you violated the law and weren't caught or weren't killed."

A Granite City, Ill., woman would have had a reasonable excuse if she had been shocked into a wreck. She reported to police that she saw a large elephant in a field near the highway she was traveling on. Skeptical officers investigated, and, sure enough, there was a placid pachyderm chained to a stake. It belonged to a carnival camped nearby.

A state police sign in Connecticut warns: "He who takes one for the road will get a trooper for a chaser."

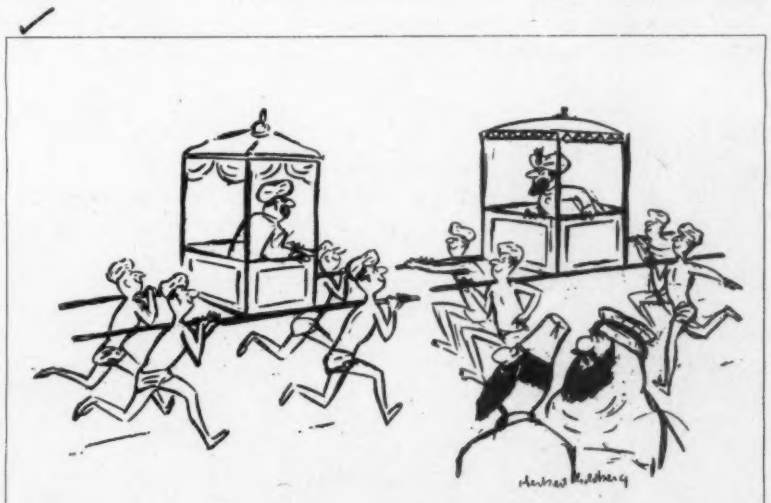
SLOW DOWN . . . A Seattle, Wash., driver was fined for careless driving at the speed of four miles an hour. Ridiculous? Not exactly. He was driving a steamroller at the time.

FORE! . . . Golf is fun, but it can be hazardous, too. That's what Indiana University professor Charles Hewitt says in a recent issue of Business Horizons Quarterly. He cites these hazards among others: a practice swing accidentally struck a companion, resulting in a suit; a demonstration swing hit a spectator, and, on another occasion, a golfer was sued when one of his shots hit a caddy. The professor notes that a "wild and erratic player may be liable to damage suit if he strikes someone standing as much as 32 degrees off the anticipated line of flight of the ball."

A candidate for the most safety-minded thief of all time was the robber who broke into a Glasgow, Scotland, butcher shop a couple of years ago. He cut himself while stealing $70 hidden in a sausage machine. Then he hurried next door and broke into a drug store to steal bandages for his wound.

A pest control company in Tulsa, Okla., has this sign on the rear of its trucks. In big letters is "Drive Carefully." Then, in smaller letters is, "And Leave the Exterminating to Us."

PARTY HAZARD . . . A Belleville, Ill., woman was hospitalized with a back injury she suffered when she was bumped by another couple while she and her husband were dancing at a party.



"I'm not sure, but I think it's some kind of game called chicken."

Reprinted from Argosy Magazine

NEW SAFETY PRODUCTS

Publication of product announcements in this section should not be construed as endorsement or approval by the National Safety Council.

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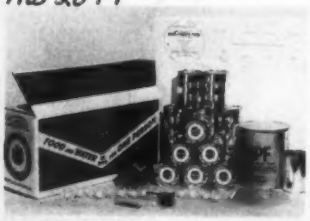

Food for survival

A food and water survival kit capable of sustaining one person for 14 days in an emergency is now available. It can be especially useful for boat or airplane owners and for persons living in hurricane and tornado belts. The 24-pound kit contains a basic nutrient called Multi-Purpose Food, 14 pints of vacuum packed water, Vitamin C supplement and utensils. Kit has a shelf life of three to five years, costs $8.98.

Surviv-all, Inc., 515 Madison Av., N.Y. 22, N.Y.

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Power mower protection

A device which virtually eliminates the possibility of catching a foot in the blades of a rotary mower is now on the market, according to the manufacturer. The **Protectorol** Kit includes two hardwood rollers 13½" long, easily fitted to front and back of rotary mowers. The rollers come into play as soon as one or more of the mower side wheels drops below the surface of the lawn; this prevents the blade from scalping the lawn or hitting curbstones. Cost $13.00.

Protectorol, Inc., 31 Parkview Terrace, Rochester 17, N.Y.

Fall-proof strips

Ho 751 fa

Sure Footing adhesive strips are advertised as a simple means of making bath tubs, stall showers and floors less slippery. They come in a decorator designed pattern of self-adhesive rubber strips contained in a plastic sheet. In one operation the plastic sheet is peeled back, leaving the strips securely anchored to the slippery surface. Available in grey with silver or in jet black, 16" sheet $1.98, 24" sheet $2.98.

Modern Ways, Inc., 48 W. 25th St., N.Y. 1, N.Y.

Ho 751 fp

Poison case

Protect children from harmful drugs with this sturdy plastic case. Fitted with a combination lock, it keeps aspirin and other dangerous medicines out of a child's grasp. Fits into any standard medicine closet or hangs on the wall. Railing at the top provides an extra shelf. The **Medi-Safe** case measures 13 x 4 x 6¼" high and is available in white, pink or aqua. Price is $4.95.

Hammacher Schlemmer, 145 E. 57th St., N.Y. 22, N.Y.